

August 28, 2019 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

Commission members present: Tex Blankenburg, Cy Field, Barbara Fulton, Johannes Krieger, Heather Oaksen, Margaret Payne, and Bill Scherer.

Excused absences: None.

Staff present: Dona Wuthnow, Toby Haskett, Kathryn Hansen.

Guests: Council Liaison Jamie Stephens.

Chair Bill Scherer called the meeting to order at 8:56am in the San Juan County Park shelter.

Approval of agenda: The agenda was approved.

Approval of minutes: The Commission approved minutes of the July 18 regular meeting with a wording change to Forest health and the inclusion of the discussion about Victory Hill.

Correspondence: None.

Chair's Message. None.

Council Liaison's Message. None.

Open Forum. Margaret Payne commented that there was a note left near the dumpsters at Eastsound Village Green about the yellowjacket traps. Admin will contact Facilities about proper placement of traps.

Financial Report.

- 2019 Budget Summary (July report). Dona reported that \$100,000 in operating revenues has not been transferred into the Park fund. Most parks are having exceptional revenues for camping & firewood, but commercial kayaking at San Juan Park is off about 30% from projected. SRKW sightings are rare and one kayak company is using an alternate launch point for many of their trips. This year's Fair exceeded 2018 & 2017 gate sales. Rockisland provided a Wi-Fi equipment & service sponsorship for the 2019 Fair. Expect a small cash deficit at the end of the year. Dona imposed a spending freeze on non-essential purchases in July.
- Proposed Levy (handout). Jamie Stephens mentioned that the levy will be on ballots this November. Dona explained the handout that shows that there is \$100,000 for maintenance of Parks & Fair capital facilities that would be administered by the County's Facilities department. Jamie clarified that operating maintenance money in the Parks & Fair budget is for horizontal improvements; the levy money is for vertical enhancements. Dona delineated a number of capital improvements that have recently executed by park staff. Jamie stated that the new levy would be permanent, not for a 6-year term.
- 2020-2021 Budget & financial discussion (handout). The budget is due tomorrow. Dona explained the different budget scenarios that she will propose. Action at the Council budget retreat moves maintenance of Lopez Village Park and Eastsound Village Green to the County's Facilities



350 COURT ST #8

FRIDAY HARBOR WA
98250

(360) 378-8420

fax (360) 378-2075

e-mail parks@sanjuanco.com

[www.sanjuanco.com/
parks](http://www.sanjuanco.com/parks)

department. Jamie characterized the biennial budget process as being proactive, rather than reactive.

Tex inquired about the two new proposed events at the Fairgrounds. Margaret commented that it will be great to see the facility used to its potential.

Dona described new revenue and program reductions proposed in the budgets.

Margaret commended Dona on a very thoughtfully prepared budget that incorporates how service levels will affect revenues.

Other areas of note: ER&R rates are increasing, we will plan a 5% fee increase in 2021, the importance of maintaining professional staff, concerns over lower maintenance of day parks that are important to the community.

Director's Report.

- 2019 Fair! No comments.
- LTAC applications. No comments.

Old Business:

- None.

New Business:

- 2019 Staff Debrief. Dona shared basic plans for this annual gathering of staff and PRC members.

Announcements: None.

Tour of San Juan County Park. Members visited North Beach and the upper restroom. This restroom received upgrades in 2018. Dona explained some of the history of land, including early tribal use and the Brann Cabin. Work continues on the Brann Cabin as funding and staff time allow. The property has some challenges with its wetland and cultural sites. The shop needs capital improvement to make it more functional. The water system was upgraded three years ago; David St. George is now a certified water system manager.

Adjourned at 10:51am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Hansen
Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission at their regular September 24, 2019 meeting in Friday Harbor.



Director's Report to the Parks & Recreation Commission

August 27, 2019

The following is a summary update of relevant Park Department happenings since the last PRC meeting that are not included on the agenda as discussion items. Very short report this month, due to the amount of time dedicated to Fair and 2020-21 budget preparations.

- 2019 County Fair- We had a great Fair this year with ticket revenues up over last year, a glowing report from the WSDA Fair Commission judge (including a Black & White Award for the Main Exhibit Hall), and many positive comments from attendees and volunteers. The most significant downside challenge was the turtle debacle, where a carnival game was giving out baby turtles to winners. Allegedly, some young people started throwing them from the top of the Zipper ride and this issue went wild on social media (you may have seen the news too). Once we were aware of the problem, we responded quickly to mitigate, so after about 24hrs things calmed down significantly. My hat is off to our whole administrative and grounds team, who worked many long hours to execute the event and did it with a smile, providing great customer service throughout. I especially want to recognize Adrienne Bourne, who took on much of the Fair Manager duties with Jennifer Allen's leave of absence, while still covering most of her regular Fair work. She had a great attitude while being under a heavy load. We all were assisted by the thorough preparation of notes, schedules and staffing that Jenn completed before her departure.
- LTAC Applications – I submitted two applications this year, our annual operations funding request and a “finishing touches” request for the ES playground. Our annual request is 6% more than last year to assist in covering cost increases. The playground request is \$43,000 and will cover several of the elements that remain unfunded, but would really be great to have in the park, including the slide, net rope climber and kinetic interactive art. It would also allow us to do additional benches and the full landscaping identified in design plans.